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EDITORIAL: How about a gift subscription for a friend? We need your support!

FIFTEEN LONG YEARS!

With this special issue, we commemorate the 15th anniversary of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Fifteen years is indeed a long time to have kept the truth about that turning point in our history under wraps. The tragedy of Dallas has long since moved into dimensions that were unimaginable in those dark days of late 1963. A national tragedy has become a living nightmare for most of us.

The HSCA is scheduled to issue its report - the Committee's "Final Solution" to the Dallas and Memphis murders - in a month or so, and then disband at the end of the year. Most of us will not be sad to see them go. The Committee's "Treacherous Trio" - Blakey, Stokes and Preyer - and their henchmen and sycophants have done their job well. They have spent upwards of $5 million to make certain that Congress will never again appropriate any funds for any kind of investigation of the assassinations, much less a fair one. Well done, fellas!

A rumor which recently surfaced has it that Blakey will be rewarded for his efforts by being appointed Attorney General after Griffin Bell graciously steps aside. That wouldn't surprise us one bit, but we'll just have to wait and see what happens. We will also be keeping an eye on the political careers of the Committee members, especially Stokes and Preyer.

With so much bad news despondency will certainly be hard to resist. There can be no doubt that the current coverup will seriously reduce our options. After the HSCA's report is issued, researchers and critics will need to take stock of those options and take it from there.

This, then, is our "hands across the sea" issue, as Harry Irwin and J.W. Burke, Jr. join hands in the Neverending Battle Against Evil. Despite the difference in format and some slight differences in content, the U.S. and U.K. editions of this issue are essentially the same. The editors hope that those of you who subscribe to both publications (a very small number, really) will forgive us our indulgence.

This issue contains two important articles by England's Chris Scally, the usual book news & reviews, and an intriguing little letter that was given to GKG's Associate Editor, Ralph Holmes. We have agreed to respect the donor's request for anonymity. We cannot, of course, vouch for the letter's veracity, but we can vouch for its authenticity. Which is to say that we are satisfied that the events described therein did actually take place as described. Whether or not the General was telling the truth is for you to decide.

THE EDITORS

WITT - THE UMBRELLA MAN? NEVER! by Chris Scally

On 30 July 1978 the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) released a series of pictures and sketches of people they wished to contact in connection with their study of the assassinations of John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King (see p. 2 JFK.AF No. 29 August 1978). One of these photographs was taken in Dealey Plaza at the time of the JFK murder by Art Rickerby of Life, and depicted the infamous "Umbrella Man" sitting on the curb moments after the shooting. Both before and after the release of this photograph, a small group of researchers who have been investigating this mystery-man tentatively identified him to the HSCA.

His name was NOT L. Steven Witt.

The 12 August issue of the Dallas Morning News carried a story by Earl Golz under the heading "'Umbrella Man' Identified?". This article stated that a former co-worker of a L. Steven Witt had identified Witt as the Umbrella Man. According to Golz, Witt said that he would have no objection to being questioned by the HSCA, and he duly appeared before the Committee. However, despite the subsequent item in the (London) Guardian headed "Kennedy 'umbrella killer' just a bad joke", it would appear that the HSCA (and the public) have been subjected to a gigantic fraud, the perpetrators of which have thus far remained predictably anonymous: unless, of course, the HSCA themselves were a party to this evil hoax.

The story told by Golz and the Dallas Morning News contained a number of points which strongly indicate that Mr. Witt was 'nominated' for the job which he subsequently carried out to the satisfaction of the HSCA:

(1) His former co-worker, now an insurance executive, agreed to talk about Witt on the condition he remain anonymous. Why? Is he afraid of Witt? Was he afraid of being called to testify before the Committee under oath? This mysterious "former co-worker" should be publicly identified, so that he - and his background and motives - can be very carefully examined. Too many executives double as CIA contacts (remember Clay Shaw!), and the real Umbrella Man was - and still is - a CIA agent.

(2) Witt's story to the News was curious, to say the least. He said that he "could not remember exactly" where he was during the assassination, but "thought he probably would have been on his lunch hour." Everyone, with the possible exception of Richard Nixon, remembers where they were and what they were doing when JFK was killed. It seems more than reasonable to assume that if Witt was the Umbrella Man, he would remember being in such close proximity to the murder of his President.

(3) Witt's un-named co-worker, rather than Witt himself, provided the information that Witt held aloft a black umbrella as a form of protest against the Kennedy family's history in foreign policy matters. If this were true, how can the fact that the umbrella was held aloft for only a few SECONDS be reconciled with it? An umbrella that is held aloft for a maximum of 25 seconds hardly constitutes a political protest!

(4) Who was Witt's Cuban-looking associate, who stood a few feet from him during the shooting, and then sat on the sidewalk apparently talking to Witt? This second man also appears to have been using a walkie-talkie set. With whom was he communicating? Was he in ANY way associated with Witt?

(5) Finally, there is a serious question-mark against Witt because of his reaction to the shooting. The photographic evidence clearly shows that people near the Umbrella Man threw themselves to the ground as soon as the shooting started. Witt, however, would have us believe that he was oblivious to it all, and took no evasive action. Similarly, after the shots were fired, most of the people in that area ran towards the grassy knoll. The Umbrella Man calmly sat on the curb before walking up Elm Street towards the TSBD.

The evidence clearly shows that the Umbrella Man was directly involved in the JFK assassination. He was NOT a political protester. No matter which way one looks at it, there is only one possible conclusion - L. Steven Witt is a liar, and part of a huge hoax. On the basis.of what we have seen of Robert Blakey and the HSCA, the odds are that Witt is a well-rewarded 'plant' designed to take the heat off the real Umbrella Man.

Pass the whitewash, please!

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"WE GOT RID OF JACK AND BOBBY." - A CABELL'S 'CONFESSION'

In recent months, with various investigations into Kennedy's murder more or less underway, speculations of possible (God-forbid) CIA involvement was bandied about. The CIA was mentioned as proof that no stone would be unturned. It was certainly a relief to learn that they weren't involved.

But it reminded me of a story I once heard. It was told to me by a lady I have known for a good number of years, a lady whose word I have always respected and believed in. She had been a fire-watcher in London during World War II, a fact I mention only to illustrate that what she saw or heard in the years afterward paled by comparison. That is, she learned not to be an alarmist. Nothing much bothered her. At least until one night in late July of 1969, shortly after Teddy Kennedy's ambush at the Dyke Bridge. The scene was the Officer's Club at Bolling Air Force Base in Washington, D.C. during one of those interminable affairs thrown for the benefit of the brass hats. This lady found herself talking to Lt. General Charles Cabell, an acquaintance from some years earlier, before he became Deputy Director of Intelligence at the CIA under Allen Dulles.

During the course of the long evening, conversation turned to the plight of Teddy Kennedy, a popular topic at the time, whereupon General Cabell said, "Well, we got rid of Jack and Bobby," and the lady who was there recalls a fairly heavy emphasis on the "we". At this point Cabell's wife cut in, laying a finger across the General's mouth, saying, "Now Ben!" According to the lady who told me the story, Mrs. Cabell's tone was stern and it was all too clear that she was admonishing her husband to keep mum. Sound advice, I'd say, and it proves the value of a good woman to a man's career, particularly in the military. Too bad, how-

ever, that the General's wife wasn't in the powder room at the time. It would have been interesting to hear Cabell out - a stream-of-consciousness war story with more potential than some I've heard.

Which is exactly the way the truth about the assassination will surface, in spite of the many millions spent on wood-panelled investigations. Some guy is simply going to spill the beans, like the death-bed confession of the assassin in Richard Condon's fictional account of the JFK murder, Winter Kills. Now suppose you're the one he tells it to, what do you do? Picture it. You're in a bar somewhere standing next to a guy who looks like Bruce Dern and he's really had a load because he starts talking to you like you once shared a cigarette in a foxhole. Just when you think he's about to drown in a puddle of beer on the counter he says, "Lissen, pal, you may not believe it but I was back-up rifle in Dealey Plaza." If you do believe it you have to hope he is alone with no one to clam him up and that you have enough cash because from now on you're buying. You also have to have a snappy come-back, something flattering like, "I've seen the movie; you do good work."

The lady who told me the story about Cabell believes to this day that she was in just such a situation that night at Bolling. She was livid for days after. She went to people for advice, talking to sympathetic Democrats and former New Frontiersmen, all of whom told her to forget it, that there was little she or anyone else could do.

Maybe Cabell's remark was a little ambiguous after all.

Maybe so, but the lady knew about Cabell's background, of his association with the CIA and the fact that his brother was the mayor of Dallas at the time JFK was shot and in her mind there could be no mistaking the meaning. It seemed to her that if anyone could be assumed to know, it would be someone in a position like Cabell.

And someone in a position like Cabell doesn't usually talk, especially if he's got something to say.

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LEE HARVEY OSWALD: AN AMERICAN AGENT IN RUSSIA? by Chris Scally

For a number of years, the Dallas Times-Herald reporter Hugh Aynesworth has taken great pleasure in recounting to those gullible enough to listen how he "invented" the FBI and CIA numbers which have been attributed to Lee Harvey Oswald. Aynesworth, friend of the Dallas police, the FBI, and Dan Rather, to name but a few, claims that FBI number S-172 and CIA number 110669 are figments of his imagination, which he made up from two Telex numbers and then passed on to Lonnie Hudkins of the Houston Post. According to Aynesworth, the entire spectrum of theories regarding Oswald's possible connections with the FBI and/or CIA originated from his little "joke". Because of his connections with the authorities, his lies have been accepted up to the highest levels, resulting in a lack of any honest and thorough investigation of the FACTS.

In the light of documents recently acquired by this author, however, the "Aynesworth Caper" can be seen at last in its true light. Indeed, in view of recent revelations about CIA infiltration of the media, it would not come as a

great surprise to find that Aynesworth was paid to circulate his patently false story.

Lee Harvey Oswald had a CIA "201 file", opened on December 9, 1960, in the name "Lee Henry Oswald". A "201 file", according to a number of CIA sources, implies that the person is an agent rather than a mere informant. Among other interesting jewels of information, Oswald's file says that his occupation was "Radar Operator, U.S. Marine Corps as of 1960". It should be remembered here that Oswald allegedly "defected" to Russia in October 1959!

Fellow-researcher Ed Tatro recently sent me a copy of an FBI interview by Special Agent Joseph J. Louffler, dated November 27, 1963. This interview had been conducted on the same day with Harold J. Stafford, Regional Attorney for the Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare in Dallas. Part of that interview report reads as follows:

"... Mr. Stafford advised correspondence from the New York Office indicates that Oswald served in the U.S. Marine Corps and went to Russia with the State Department's approval to accept employment as a radar specialist...."

This revealing document also sheds further light on Oswald's comments during his debate with Carlos Bringuier which was broadcast on Radio Station WDSU in New Orleans on August 21, 1963. During that debate, Oswald said: "I worked in Russia, er, I WAS, er, under the protection, er, of the, er, that is to say I WAS NOT under the protection of the American government...." (Emphasis added - C.S.) It would seem from the transcript quoted here that Oswald immediately realised that he might have "blown his cover", recanted, and hoped nobody had noticed.

This material, while admittedly sketchy, strongly suggests that Oswald was working for the American government when he went to Russia in 1959. Whether or not his FBI and CIA agent numbers are valid is immaterial - he was in Russia "with the State Department's approval".

Did the House Select Committee on Assassinations consider this question in detail? Did the Committee refer to the WDSU transcript? Or did they call Hugh Aynesworth, and have him tell them that he forged the "201 file", the FBI interview report and the radio transcript as another of his little jokes?

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BOOKNEWS

HOW TERRORISTS KILL: THE COMPLETE TERRORIST ARSENAL BY J. DAVID TRUBY; PALADIN PRESS, 1978. ISBN 0-87364-124-8. $6.00.

Our regular contributor David Truby has just had his latest book published and, although terrorism is not a subject that we usually cover in our columns, we mention it here as it now affects virtually all of us in our everyday lives.

This is an interesting study of modern terrorism documenting the vast variety of weapons used throughout the world. Over 80 photographs depict these and, drawing on sources and interviews from many countries, the author has produced an up-to-date account that may shake some of our misconceptions.

In addition to this title the same publishers - Paladin Press, Box 1307, Boulder, CO 80306, offers the two following books that may also interest our readers.

SILENCERS, SNIPERS AND ASSASSINS BY J. DAVID TRUBY.

The story of the invention, development and importance of the silencer. Price $15.95.

ASSASSINATION: THEORY AND PRACTICE BY RICHARD CAMELLION.

Although Chapter Four is dedicated to the killings of JFK, RFK and Martin Luther King, this book is virtually a history of assassination with worldwide cases from 1914 onwards. As a primer on the subject it is excellent if marred by a right-wing political bias. There is an intriguing dedication ".... to the old pros in the Q-Section", but the author doesn't elaborate on that!

Assassination by the KGB and the CIA is covered. Comparisons between the German and Soviet style, Global Assassinations and Violence in the United States is also covered.

Obviously, as far as this journal is concerned the most interesting point is the author's statement that "the true killers (of JFK) were never caught and never will be. Lee Harvey Oswald was only the patsy, the goof 'dropped' to the American public."

Now, try and tell THAT to Robert Blakey and the HSCA!!!

*** British readers will be interested to know that Pelican Books have just published a slightly abridged version of the excellent anthology, THE ASSASSINATIONS: DALLAS AND BEYOND by Peter Dale Scott, Paul Hoch and Russell Stetler. An excellent way of spending £1.50! (Irwin)

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WHO WAS JACK RUBY? BY SETH KANTOR; NEW YORK: EVEREST HOUSE, 1978, 242 PAGES, $10.95.

Veteran reporter Kantor, now a Washington correspondent for the Atlanta Constitution, knew Ruby in the early 1960's when Kantor was a reporter for the Dallas Times-Herald. Kantor covered President Kennedy's trip to Texas for the Scripps-Howard newspapers, and he encountered Ruby in Parkland Hospital a few minutes after the assassination. Ruby asked if Kantor thought he should close his clubs for the weekend. After he shot Oswald, Ruby denied he went to Parkland after the assassination. The Warren Commission was understandably uneasy with the idea of Ruby's presence at Parkland, so they chose to believe Ruby and found Kantor was "probably mistaken", and had instead seen Ruby at the police station that evening or the next day.

One wonders why Kantor waited until this late date to publish a book on Ruby. Although it is generally an excellent piece of reporting, and very readable as well, there is little here that has not been written before. For this reviewer, the most interesting of the few new revelations is Kantor's assertion that the "Fox brothers" referred to by Ruby as his Havana contacts, long assumed to be the Lanskys by most researchers, did actually exist. It would have been interesting to pause and dwell on these Fox brothers for a while and delve into their backgrounds. Kantor, however, found it sufficient to track down the daughter of one, elicited the information that the brothers were named Martin and Pedro Fox, were Cuban nationals, had indeed owned a piece of the Tropicana in Havana (as Ruby had always maintained), and both had died several years before. The reader is left dangling, pleading for more, but no more is forthcoming. Come on, Seth!

Kantor reaches some other questionable conclusions, too. Among them is his acceptance of Oswald's guilt in the murder of officer Tippit, although there is absolutely no credible evidence at this time that Oswald did it, and much evidence that he did not. Another is his assertion that CE 399 could not have been a plant: "There are those who have insisted that Ruby had gone to Parkland for a purpose - to put the magic bullet on the stretcher. But in order for that to have happened, there would have had to be a sort of central assassination command post, where the impact of the shots fired into the President's car could be quickly analyzed, with orders relayed then for a messenger to head straight to Parkland with a slightly damaged bullet, which could be matched to the rifle that could be traced to Oswald. That kind of thing would have been questionable even on the TV series, 'Mission: Impossible.'"

Oh, pooh, Seth! All that needed to be done was apparently what was done: Plant a bullet that had been previously fired from the "Oswald rifle" into some cotton wadding or a water tank in some area at Parkland where the dying President or the wounded Connally had both been, even for a short time, and sit back and wait for the police and the Warren Commission to fit the facts into the pre-conceived conclusion. In this case, the Single-Bullet Theory. CE 399 clearly had never been fired through tissue or bone, therefore, it could not have fallen from either Kennedy's or Connally's body. So tell me, Seth, just how did that bullet get there? (Burke)

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WHILE THEY LAST: Copies of Jack White's photo essay on The Umbrella Man, which appeared in GKG and JFK AF. Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope and 25 cents for each copy to the GRASSY KNOLL GAZETTE.

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